

## Heritage Girls School and Their Staff Looked at



Dan Bates

Heritage Girls School begin operations in Center Creek over one year ago. "We knew there was a great need for a school that could adequately serve the needs of adolescent girls," states Jerry Spanos, Executive Director and co-owner. "But we honestly didn't expect to grow as fast as we have. There is a tremendous need for this service."

The main purpose of the Heritage Girls School is to provide education and residential treatment for adolescents who are experiencing difficulties in their personal growth and development. The school is

founded upon the belief that individuals are important, that they are endowed with worth and dignity, and that they can learn grow, and mature. Helping the girls discover that they are individuals of great worth with potential is much easier said than done. The process is one of helping the girls channel their energy in directions which will enable them to experience successes that have eluded them in the past. This would be impossible without a patient, caring staff.

Dan Bates, for instance, makes a significant contribution to the environment of caring and concern which the Heritage School wants to foster. His work schedule demonstrates his level of commitment. Dan works every morning from 4:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Day's Thriftway as the Manager of Day's Bakery. After completing his work at Day's Thriftway he becomes the Chief Cook at the Heritage Girls School from 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. When asked why he is willing to work at a girls school he replied, "Working with the girls is very rewarding. They are enjoyable to be around." They also love his cooking and that's easy to understand; everyone loves Dan's cooking. But, more importantly, they look up to him as a caring parental figure. He provides the stability and support which are vital elements for nourishing the growth and development of these young women.





*Dan and Kate Bates*

*by Pauline Simmons Peterson*  
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